

CEEQUAL Version 6 consultation information

March 2019

Introduction

This document gives important information for the consultation on the draft technical manual for CEEQUAL V6, including a description of the main changes. The draft technical manual that is available for consultation applies to infrastructure projects – both new construction and refurbishment – in the UK and internationally.

Background

The original objectives for the development project were to:

- a. Combine CEEQUAL V5 and BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot into a single scheme
- b. Update technical criteria and methodologies as appropriate

As we got into the detailed work of drafting technical criteria last summer it became apparent that these objectives were in fact two separate development projects, and we were trying to do them both in parallel. This was one of the primary causes for the launch being delayed and we acknowledged that successfully delivering on both would cause significant further delays to the project. We also acknowledged that introducing the large number of changes that this process identified in one step would create significant challenges for our assessors, project teams and the civil engineering sector as a whole.

We therefore took the decision last autumn to rescope and reprioritise the objectives for CEEQUAL Version 6. This has therefore focused on merging the two sets of criteria and related methodologies in order to maximise the benefit and clarity of requirement whilst also delivering some 'critical' updates at the same time. Once Version 6 has been launched, development work will continue on more detailed and extensive technical upgrades for a period of approximately two years. After this we intend to launch the scheme with the changes as CEEQUAL Version 7. These technical upgrades will take into account more strategic technical work across the full range of BREEAM family schemes as well as research currently underway into how CEEQUAL can best interact with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other initiatives.

International projects

CEEQUAL Version 6 will apply both in the UK and internationally, however, at this stage we are only issuing the UK manual for consultation. This will be adapted post-consultation to create an international version of the manual which will primarily cover changes to wording to remove UK specific legislation/regulation and the addition of the process for agreeing local weightings. We welcome feedback from international users on the UK manual at this point as this will provide us with valuable input on the changes required.

CEEQUAL for Term Contracts

The draft technical manual currently being consulted on will not replace CEEQUAL for Term Contracts. CEEQUAL for Term Contracts will continue to operate on Version 5.2. We have taken feedback from users of the Term Contracts scheme and have plans to update it to Version 6 and include an updated, streamlined assessment process. We will communicate a timeline for this update after Version 6 for projects has launched.

Merging of CEEQUAL and BREEAM methodologies

Table 1 below outlines the key elements that we have brought into Version 6 from the two existing schemes for infrastructure, CEEQUAL Version 5 and BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.

Table 1: Summary of changes in CEEQUAL Version 6 (by topic)

Topic	What has come from CEEQUAL?	What has come from BREEAM?
Operation and process	<p>The process of Scoping, Assessment, Verification, Ratification. (The last two stages directly correspond to QA in BREEAM.)</p> <p>Assessment types (e.g. Whole Project, Design only, Construction only).</p> <p>Flexible 'Interim Design stage' verification/certification point as part of a Whole Project assessment.</p>	<p>Strategy stage verification/certification point as trialled in BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.</p>
Technical content	<p>Existing technical content from CEEQUAL Version 5.</p> <p><i>See the following 'Technical changes' section for more detail.</i></p>	<p>Technical content from BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot and wider strategic BREEAM developments in Resilience, Land use and ecology, Resources, and Transport.</p> <p><i>See the following 'Technical changes' section for more detail.</i></p>
Scoring and ratings	<p>Maintaining existing CEEQUAL rating levels for 'Very Good' and 'Excellent'.</p> <p>Scores presented with embedded category weightings.</p>	<p>Addition of 'Outstanding' rating plus changes to aligning with BREEAM rating levels for 'Pass' and 'Good'.</p> <p>Inclusion of minimum standards, innovation credits, and prerequisites.</p>
Presentation and format	<p>Numbering format for categories/issues/criteria.</p>	<p>Structure of categories and assessment issues (including format and layout of assessment issues).</p> <p>Presentation of assessment criteria as statements rather than questions.</p>

Technical changes

It is important to stress at the outset that there are very few differences in the general scope of the technical content in CEEQUAL Version 5 and BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot. The primary difference between the two methodologies is the current CEEQUAL approach of structuring assessment criteria to account for the nature/scale/context of a project compared to the BREEAM approach of defining more fixed performance levels. Feedback from the BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot has indicated that more flexibility is needed to account for a wider range of infrastructure projects. We therefore decided the simplest way to achieve this was to utilise the existing CEEQUAL Version 5 content as the basis for Version 6 whilst maintaining an appropriate level of drive towards quantifiable enhancement. This does not mean that criteria have been watered down from BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot, it just means that projects are able to apply appropriate achievement levels for specific criteria. For most BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot users this simply means that the performance levels currently being worked to on the project are those that should be used.

Table 2: Summary of main technical changes in CEEQUAL Version 6 (by category)

Category	Summary of changes
Management	<p>A new issue focussed on ethical labour issues (called 'Staff and supply chain social governance'). This addresses the much higher focus on modern slavery issues since the two previous schemes were launched.</p> <p>This category covers aspects of 'Integrated design' from BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.</p>
Resilience	<p>Inclusion of issues on identifying dependencies, risk assessment/mitigation, and consideration of future needs from BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.</p> <p>This category incorporates 'Flood risk' (section 4.3) from CEEQUAL V5.</p>
Communities and stakeholders	<p>No new or significantly changed issues. This category covers issues previously addressed in 'Local wellbeing' in BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.</p>
Pollution	<p>No new or significantly changed issues. This category combines issues previously addressed in 'Effects on neighbours' (sections 3.3 and 3.4) and 'The Water Environment' (section 7) in CEEQUAL V5.</p>
Land use and ecology	<p>Adaptation of ecology related questions from CEEQUAL Version 5. This includes incorporating the new BREEAM calculation methodology for net change in ecological value plus changes regarding survey and evaluation, managing negative impacts on existing ecological value, and long-term management plans. These changes are designed to begin to align the CEEQUAL requirements with the BREEAM Strategic Ecology Framework that is being implemented across BREEAM schemes.</p>
Landscape and heritage	<p>No new or significantly changed issues.</p>
Resources	<p>New issue focussed on reducing whole life carbon ('Reducing whole life carbon emissions'). This builds on the measurement of a carbon footprint covered in the updated LCA criteria and requires demonstration of implementation of PAS 2080.</p> <p>Inclusion of new criteria focussed on consideration and implementation of business models for circular economy. CEEQUAL has always had a range of criteria that look for best practice in resource efficiency, including keeping materials as high up the utility chain as possible. The new requirements are focussed more on how procurement and business models for a project could provide even greater performance.</p> <p>This category covers the issues addressed by the 'Materials', 'Carbon and energy', 'Waste', and 'Water' categories in BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.</p>
Transport	<p>Inclusion of new criteria focussed on consideration of and protection for vulnerable road users, plus new criteria focussed on responsible fleet operations.</p>

Other changes

Strategy stage requirements

The issues contained in 'Project Strategy' (section 1) of CEEQUAL Version 5 have been incorporated directly into the relevant technical categories listed above. The exception to this is question 1.1.7 ('Contribution to more sustainable living'), which has been removed. This decision has been made on the basis of feedback from the Project Strategy Adjudication Panel that forms part of the ratification process. This feedback showed that to be truly beneficial this question had to be assessed at an overarching programme or project level, and that assessment within individual projects did not necessarily lead to robust consideration of the issue. In addition, the assessment of this question was much more qualitative than the rest of CEEQUAL and as such would not fit comfortably within the requirements of our UKAS accreditation. We will consider how best to assess this issue in our future development programme.

Ratings and minimum standards

Within Version 6 we are maintaining the existing CEEQUAL V5 rating levels for 'Very Good' and 'Excellent' and introducing a new rating level of 'Outstanding' to help differentiate exemplary performance. We have also increased the rating levels for 'Pass' and 'Good' to align with the levels used in BREEAM.

To ensure that a project is truly outstanding we are also introducing four minimum standards for the 'Outstanding' rating. If these four minimum standards are not achieved, then the outstanding rating will not be granted even if the score is above the 'Outstanding' rating level of 90%.

Weightings

A weightings consultation exercise has not been undertaken for CEEQUAL Version 6. Instead the Version 5 weightings have been amended to take account of the re-categorisation of criteria into new sections. As a second stage the weightings have been further adjusted to take account of the significance of the changes/additions being made as outlined in the table above including consideration of how the criteria and categories were weighted in BREEAM Infrastructure Pilot.

Innovation credits

We are proposing to introduce an innovation credit process in CEEQUAL V6, similar to the successful process in BREEAM. This will enable project teams to apply for additional credits to recognise truly innovative practices that deliver sustainability improvements.

Prerequisites

Several criteria have been made prerequisites for achieving recognition and reward at higher performance levels within assessment issues. Prerequisites have been introduced for issues that are deemed to demonstrate current good practice or achieving 'business as usual' outcomes. As such these do not warrant reward (i.e. a score) for moving towards best practice, but they are still seen as fundamental to how a project should operate. For this reason, they have been included in Version 6 and will need confirmation from the project team that they have been completed.

Terminology

There are a few terminology changes from CEEQUAL Version 5 in order to bring the scheme more in line with other BREEAM family schemes. These changes are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Terminology changes in CEEQUAL V6

Previous term in CEEQUAL V5	New term in CEEQUAL V6
Questions	Criteria
Mandatory question	Fixed criteria
Points	Credits
Award	Assessment
Award grade	Rating